

Applicant respectfully requests that this application proceed to examination.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized and directed to charge the any applicable fees and/or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 50-0385.

Respectfully submitted,

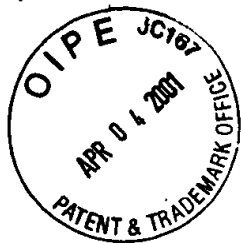
McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

4-4-01



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

On page 18, paragraph 2, has been amended as follows:

Figures 1A-[1F] 1E show prior art signal processing systems.

In the Abstract

Page 160, the abstract has been added as follows:

ABSTRACT

A method for smoothing the clipping of an input signal in a clip region, at either the entry to or exit from the clip region, or both, in which a clip region is defined and a current input signal value is compared to the defined clip region, and the dV/dt of, for example, the current and prior input signals is calculated for input signals identified as being within the clip region, in response to which an output signal output is modified to provide a smooth transition from region to region. Various alternative approaches are also disclosed.